

Testimony from Kim Libera, 745 D Long Hill Rd Middletown, CT
Re: Advocacy for SB 513

I'm an advocate for animals & urge the GA to vote in the affirmative on this bill & get it passed. I have often observed pet animals stuck in hot cars in my city of residence while the owner has run into the store, the bank, etc. I make it a point to stand by the vehicle & keeping track of time that the owner is gone. In most cases I have called the police to send someone on & to be quite honest, the Middletown police have been very uncooperative & threatening. In fact, one time they did not respond to my call at all while another time they tried to present reasons to me that conditions were not extreme & that it was not illegal to place a pet in a car. They are not dealing with a non-informational citizen. I hold a masters degree in earth science which includes study of meteorology. I carry several weather instruments in my car at all times. I am also an American Red Cross Instructor so I am very familiar with the topics of hyperthermia & hypothermia. I'd begin to tell the reporting officer my background. They were also unaware that we do have a law passed by this GA on cruelty to animals which includes weather. Most recently while in Stop & Shop 2 persons within the same vicinity left their pets in a car while I & some other bystanders stopped by to monitor. We all made calls to 9-11. One gentleman I educated on the buildup of carbon monoxide if the windows are all the way up even though he left the AC running. Doesn't anybody know about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning or has our educational system been dumbed down that badly? Some of the owners get very defensive which is the reason I call police but a lot of cops don't want to work that hard. They'd try to tell me about the weather & then I'd give them one about how dogs have no sweat glands. I have even offered to give a free lecture to the police dept. on pet first aid. It is worse for large furry dogs. In winter conditions it is bad for hairless dogs. I deplore the fact that regular everyday people are not well-informed on the issue of weather & their pets. This is why we need EMS involved. People like me who observe animals in parking lots-this is where most incidents happen are not out to give the owner 90 years in prison but this is cruelty to animals & there has to be some penalty & some education in the process. You'd do it for a baby left in a car, you should do for an animal.

The concept of penalty to be addressed in such scenarios I think needs to go thru Judiciary. I'd give the judge in such scenarios discretion. In the case of the absent-minded, culturally illiterate owner, I do advise education & a fine. In more egregious situations something heavier is more appropriate.

Re: SB 284 Cecil's Law

I also support passage of SB 284, act to discourage trophy hunting of animals. These are God's creatures & they all fit into his plan regardless of whether or not we fully comprehend. I despise poaching & I view these behaviors as acts of testosterone rage. One reason we have an endangered list or near endangered list is due to poaching & hunting. The world has a food supply. There is need to hunt these animals to extinction. Incidentally, the hunter who claimed Cecil as a prize a couple years back to the abhorrence of the American people just perished in a hunting accident.

Re: H.B. 5617

I have always advocated the prohibition of sale of pups & kittens from pet stores. They are all obtained from mills. These animals are not well-bred or cared for & often lead to heartbreak for the owner. Milling is not a legitimate business of capitalism. It is cruel & greedy. Sales reps. All tell you that the pup is champion bred which is the biggest fraud around. The bulk of these dogs come from puppy mill states like Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, & Amish country. I did you not about Amish country. Do not for a minute think that these people have some moral compass.

Re: Opposition to Bear Hunt Bill SB 522

I voice strong opposition to the Bear Hunt bill. I believe in the protection of animals to the extent rationally possible by humankind. After Darwins laws, humankind is the biggest danger to animals. Our society has evolved where we do not need to be dependent on hunting wildlife for the sake of trophies, food, pelts or fur. The number of black bears in CT is not large. My research lists the number at 149. That is 1 per town. Most of these bears are located in the Simsbury area & the quiet corners. What if a hunter shoots a pregnant mother bear or the mother of newborn cubs? I am particularly appalled by the strong GOP advocacy of hunting in light that this party claims to be pro-life. Gee I would hope pro-life extends to animals & not just the womb. We have any number of animals on an endangered list. Let's preserve that which is part of the great tapestry of the American landscape. Do you not remember as a child your visit to the zoo, a farm, an agricultural fair, a circus, or a wildlife preserve? Those animals are part of America. I'd hate to see us replicate the model going on in Africa. Hunting bears is more driven by a drive for trophy hunts simply because CT has seen a few bears. Remember it is humankind that has encroached upon the habitats of animals that have facilitated their movement into corridors. Down near my college alma mater, the deer run all around the town of Highland Park-on the sidewalks, people's yards-all right downtown. Nobody minds. With regard for farmers who may have experienced loss of their livestock, I strongly support a tax credit for such farmer to install an electronic fence or barrier, even shepherd dogs to protect their livestock because I advocate for them to. Furthermore, persons hiking the woods, get educated-obtain a can of mace & bring it with you. For those bears found out of their habitat, must we always shoot them? My God. Bring them to Canada, put them in a zoo, put them on an animal preserve-use a tranquilizer dart. One thing members should know is that large mammals, while relatively long-lived to tiny creatures, don't reproduce that often. Their natal cycles are long & so are their weaning cycles.